

Maintenance Therapy in ANCA Vasculitis: Give Enough but Not Too Much

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Symposium Description and Objectives

In ANCA vasculitis, the use of corticosteroids along with cyclophosphamide or rituximab for the induction treatment of patients with ANCA vasculitis is associated with remission rates between 65% and 80% at 6 months. The success of induction therapy has shifted the focus to maintenance therapy and the prevention of relapse, as well as the reduction of treatment-related complications.

Whereas the value of maintenance therapy is recognized, many questions remain with respect to the choice, timing, and duration of immunosuppressive treatment. Should all patients with ANCA vasculitis receive maintenance immunosuppression? What is the medication of choice? Are there disease markers that help guide the choice or timing of treatments? Is an “as needed” approach to immunosuppression implementable?

These questions surrounding the targeted use of maintenance therapy are most pertinent to improving the care of patients with ANCA vasculitis. In this symposium, a panel of experts in the field addresses these important questions in a series of case presentations. Each presentation illustrated various aspects of 1) risks of relapse; 2) choice of maintenance immunosuppressive medication; and 3) use of clinical markers of disease (serologic and/or cellular) for the timing of maintenance of therapy.

Upon completion of this symposium, the participant will be able to:

- 1) describe the rationale for maintenance therapy and the choice for the current “standard” of care;
- 2) explain the risk factors for disease relapse;
- 3) discuss treatment options for maintenance therapy; and
- 4) describe the use of ANCA and B-cell tests with respect to maintenance immunosuppression.

Symposium Schedule

Friday, November 6, 2015

Introduction

Michael Walsh, MD, PhD, McMaster University

Who Needs Maintenance Therapy in ANCA Vasculitis?

JulieAnne G. McGregor, MD, University of North Carolina

Maintenance Therapy in ANCA Vasculitis: What, When and How Much?

Christian Pagnoux, MD, MSc, MPH, University of Toronto

Questions and Answers

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